

7076

THE
IMPORTANCE
OF
GIBRALTAR,
CONSIDER'D.

(Price One Shilling.)

THE
IMPORTANCE



CONSIDERED

(Price One Shilling)

GIBRALTAR
A
BULWARK
OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

In a LETTER to a MEM-
BER OF PARLIAMENT.

CONTAINING
Some CONSIDERATIONS on the IM-
PORTANCE of that Place, in respect
to our TRADE in general; but parti-
cularly with regard to BARBARY,
SPAIN, FRANCE, &c.

WITH
PROPOSALS for erecting a Civil Magi-
stracy there, and for lessening the Annual
Expende of the Crown in maintaining
that Garrison.

Phil. Lett.
K.

— *Hic Murus aeneus esto.*

Hor.

By a Gentleman of the Navy.

L O N D O N:
Printed for J. PEELE, at *Locke's-Head* in
Pater-noster-Row; and N. BLANDFORD at
the *London-Gazette, Charing-Cross.* 1725.

CIBRA

BULLWALK

GRAND PRINCE

Is a better

HER



Some of the
to our
colony
Spain, France,

PROPOSAL
they have
Expenditure
that Government

By a

Printed for
the



THE
IMPORTANCE
OF
GIBRALTAR,
CONSIDER'D.

SIR,



ACCORDING to your
Desire, I here send
you my Thoughts on
Gibraltar, with such
Reasons as occur to
me for our never part-
ing with it; as also some Proposals
for lessening the Expence which the
Crown is at in maintaining that va-
luable Acquisition: And I chuse to
do it in this publick Manner, as be-
ing convinced that the Importance
of

(6)
of it cannot be too generally con-
sider'd; when we find the Spaniards
arming, and preparing much to them-
selves against the ensuing Season for
Action; for we are inform'd that the
Great Master of their Ordnance has
made a Tour to *Malaga*, there to ex-
ecute some of his Catholick Majesty's
Orders, and to survey the Magazines
and the Arsenal, which has not been
done for some Years past; and that
Commissaries have been also sent
into *Andalusia* (in the Neighbourhood
of *Gibraltar*) to take a List of such
Horses as the Inhabitants can spare,
without Prejudice to their Husbandry,
to remount the Cavalry in case of
need. The State of their Land and
Sea Service is now also settling, or
settled; and as they are building new
Ships, and refitting their old Ones,
it looks as if the establishing a Ma-
rine was their darling Project, and
that they have nothing so much at
Heart as the obtaining of *Gibraltar*
and *Port Mahon* from us. But the
following Letter shews more fully
what is on the Carpet at *Madrid*, viz.

Ma-

on Madrid, Octob. 18. 1706. Colonel Stan-
hope, Envoy Extraordinary from the
King of Great Britain, appears, but
seldom at Court. Tis said, that
the Distance he keeps is owing to
some Discovery he has made of
some Designs of the Spaniards up-
on Gibraltar and Port Mahon.
 The Report that Capt. Cammock
 has been beheaded at Grannda, co-
 ming so close after this Letter, in-
 duced some to think, that he may
 have suffered on Account of having
 made Discoveries in relation to the
 Designs of the Spaniards on Gibraltar
 or Port Mahon. There is certainly
 Reason for this Conjecture, since Mr.
 Cammock, who was formerly Captain
 of one of our Men of War, has met
 with such Preferment in the Sea Ser-
 vice of Spain, and has been otherwise
 so confided in there, that he could
 not but be let into Secrets of Impor-
 tance: Add to all this, the Readiness
 those of his Party shew to make their
 Peace, and thereby obtain Liberty
 of returning to their native Country;
 and we may reasonably conclude, if he
 has lost his Head, it has been on some
 such an Account.

Whe-

Whether the foregoing Letter, or the Report of Mr. Cammock's being put to Death, be true or no, in every Part, is not very material to my Purpose, since I believe there are few *Englishmen*, who do not think, that the *Spaniards* have had Designs both on *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon* ever since they have been in our Hands, and that they have even run their utmost Stretch both in War and Politicks to dispossess Us of those Places, which *Great Britain* cannot give up without irreparable Damage: We ought therefore ever to be on our Guard against them, and to act in this Respect, as if we were really let into their deepest Designs. Did not a Spirit of blind Delusion reign over some of our Country Men, certainly they would not be wanting to estimate the Value of *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon*, from the Concern which *Spain* shews at her having parted with them.

Gibraltar being, in my Opinion, of greater Importance to Us than *Port Mahon*, I shall solely confine my self thereto, not in the least doubting but these Papers will have their due Weight

with

with All who will seriously consider what I offer. Some I am well assured there are who will give no Attention to any Thing that may be advanced by an Advocate for *Gibraltar*; but these appear to me to be in *Spanish* Pay, or otherwise surely they would not talk of its being a dead Weight on the Publick, when it is so well known to many, that the Security and Happiness of *Great Britain* much depends on it; and that it is not in the most fruitful Imagination to figure out a Place more happily seated, or better defended both by Art and Nature against an Enemy, than *Gibraltar* is. 'Tis a Key to the *Mediterranean*, and entitles us to the Sovereignty of that Sea; for by stationing a Squadron of Men of War there, we have it in our Power to suffer few, or no Ships to pass without our Permission.

I shall first consider the Importance of *Gibraltar* in respect to *Barbary*: When I speak of *Barbary*, I would not be understood to mean the *Moors* in general, but only the Subjects of the Emperor of *Fez* and

B

Mo-

Morocco, since it does not appear, that the States of *Algier*, *Tunis*, and *Tripoli* are so ready to violate their Treaties with us as the Rovers of *Sally*, &c. are, notwithstanding their Ships, both for Number and Force, are much superior to the others. Were it to my Purpose, I could assign Reasons why we have been so often insulted by that People, and could point out what would effectually oblige them to treat Us with more Regard than they have heretofore done: But this being foreign to my Subject, I hasten to that.

It is but too well known how capable the *Moors* are of annoying our *Mediterranean* Trade, as well from the aptness of their Situation, as too frequent a Disregard to their Treaties with Us. 'Tis also too well known, that We scarce ever had a Rupture with that People, wherein they have not plundered Us of Four-score, or a Hundred Thousand Pounds before our Differences have been composed; and notwithstanding they have broke the Peace, without so much as assigning any Reason

Reason for it, yet so far have We been from obtaining any Restitution, that, after keeping a Squadron to cruize on them many Months at a great Expence to the Crown, We have been obliged to add valuable Presents to their rich Plunder, before We could bring them to accommodate Matters.

These Things considered (and that if We were to take every Ship they have, it would be but a Trifle to our Losses) fully evidence the absolute Necessity there is of having a convenient Port in their Neighbourhood, as well for the Security of our Commerce against them, as the equipping of such a Squadron as may be thought necessary to protect it, and distress a People who will not believe, till they are convinced by more powerful Arguments than Words, that it is their Interest constantly to maintain a fast Friendship with Us. Of such a Port we are, God be thanked, possessed, since *Gibraltar* answers our utmost Wishes in this Respect; for it not only lies near the Ports of the Emperor of *Morocco*, but has Conveni-

encies for cleaning such a Squadron as would be sufficient to humble the *Moors*, should they ever treat us again in the same manner they have formerly done: Besides, the Ships, as soon as clean, may be on Service without the Loss of any Time.

I speak on my own Knowledge, when I say, that Men of War of the 5th and 6th Rate have cleaned, and refitted in the New Mole at *Gibraltar*: And I cannot help being of Opinion, that it would be no great Charge to render it fit for those of higher Rank to do the same there, more especially should the like Measures be taken as were in making the fine Wharf at *Port Mahon*, where several of our best Ships may careen at one and the same time. In a word, *Gibraltar* is of the utmost Consequence to us in a War with the *Moors*, for it enables us entirely to stop the *Barbary* Trade, which I hope to see effectually done should there ever be another Occasion for it, since that is the only Expedient to make them value our Friendship.

I am not insensible that some, who have never breathed in any Air but that of *England*; and who join the Cry against *Gibraltar*, will tell me that *Lisbon* is a proper Place to clean the Squadron in, which may be appointed, in Case of a War with the *Moors*, to cruize against the Rovers of *Sally*. 'Tis granted, that *Lisbon* is a Port capable of receiving, and refitting Ships of any Rate; however, as it is much farther distant from the Ports of the Emperor of *Morocco*, it ought not to be mentioned, in this Respect, when *Gibraltar* is named, since much Time might be spent in a Ship's Passage thither, much in her cleaning, and so much in her Return to her Station, that it is not improbable to suppose, the Ship she was to relieve might by some Accident be forced from the Port where she was cruizing before the other's Arrival, and thereby give an Opportunity to a *Sally* Rover to get out, and snap up some of our Trade in so hungry a Time as an intire Prohibition of their Commerce would infallibly bring on them.

Were

Were we at War with the *Moors*, and dispossess'd of *Gibraltar*, I readily allow that *Lisbon* would be the properest Place to clean the *Sally Squadron*. As we at present stand with the Court of *Portugal*, there is no doubt of our obtaining a Liberty of so doing; but since in Cases of this Nature it is as reasonable we should look on the left, as well as the right side, let us therefore, for once, suppose *Gibraltar* given up, that we have a War with *Spain*, and do not stand so well with the *Portuguese* as to have leave to clean one Ship at *Lisbon*. This certainly is no impossible Supposition, considering the Alliance and Intermarriages between *Spain* and *Portugal*: Both Courts seem now well agreed; and should their Friendship continue till a Difference might happen between *Great Britain* and *Spain*, I cannot perceive but that the *Portuguese* would cease to regard us as they have hitherto done: Nay, 'tis not improbable, in this Case, but they might deny us the Liberty of entering the *Tagus* with our Ships. What then must be done in a War with the *Moors*? Whither would the *Anti-Gibraltarians* send the *Sally Squadron*

dron then? In this Case, had they any good Wishes for their Country, they would wish too late for *Gibraltar*, and have convincing Proof of the Advantages we reap from it, with respect to the *Moors* in particular, and to the Trade and Security of *Great Britain* in general.

'Tis not improbable, that those on this Side the Question may talk of *Port Mahon* as a proper Place to clean the *Sally* Squadron in; but the Gentlemen of the Navy (who must be allowed in this Case to be the best Judges) will tell them, that *Port Mahon* is not so proper for it as *Lisbon*, since that Place is not only at a considerable Distance from any of the *Moorish* Ports, but the Ships which clean there must pass the *Streights* Mouth before they can enter on Service against the *Sally* Rovers; and if they meet not with a strong Easterly Wind to resist the Current, which sets into the *Mediterranean* at the rate of 5, or 6 Miles *per* Hour, they may be drove up to *Port Mahon* again before a favourable Opportunity offers for their getting on their Station, since
we

we are not to suppose our Ships can put into *Gibraltar* Bay, should the *Spaniards* or *French* ever become possessed of it, and be at War with us. In this Case we need not doubt but they would improve on our Neglect of it, and always have a sufficient Force there, as well to prevent our entering that Port, as to annoy our *Mediterranean* Trade.

This Consideration alone convinces me of the Importance of *Gibraltar*; for if we were not possessed of it, and could not have the Liberty of that Bay for our Trade to stop in, for a favourable Occasion to pass the *Streights*, What must we do? Whither must they go? Into the Ports of *Spain*; No, we have already supposed our selves at War with the *Spaniards*. 'Tis likely that those who will not be brought to see the Value of *Gibraltar*, will say, that if stormy Weather and Westerly Winds hold so long as to force any of our Trade up the *Mediterranean* as high as *Port Mahon*, that they may put in there. Admitting this, have they not then near 200 Leagues to come back again? And who knows what

what Mischief may happen in such a Run. The Wind which brings them from *Port Mahon*, downwards, would carry them through the *Streights* were they in *Gibraltar Bay*, to embrace the Opportunity of it. What Man can say, that the favourable Wind they may have from *Port Mahon* shall not shift when they most want it, and that they shall not be forced upwards a second time. In a word, those who argue this Way seem not to be of my Opinion, which is, *That whoever can find out our Weak Side so as to get Gibraltar from Us, will not be long before they have Port Mahon too.*

Were we depriv'd of *Gibraltar*, I may venture to affirm, that we should not have the *Moors* any more at Peace with Us than they are with the other States of *Christendom*. 'Tis certain, that from our Possession of this Place, and our being so powerful at Sea, they regard us something more than they do any other People, though that regard is little enough, considering they are not altogether insensible, that we are qualified to put an intire

C

Stop

Stop to their Commerce. But as we never fully shewed our Power on this Occasion, we may thank our selves if we should hereafter meet with the same Treatment that we have formerly had from them. I say, the *Moroccans* regard us more than they do any other Christian State on account of *Agadir*. And the Reason is plain; for since it has been in our Hands Multitudes of *Jews* have past over from *Barbary*, and resided there; (which they are not admitted to do in any Port of *Spain*) where they have been suffer'd to Trade, when the other Subjects of the Emperor of *Morocco* have been taking our Ships, and enslaving our People.

Nothing is more certain, than that the Indulgence shewn to the *Jews* in that Place, is what prevents it from Thriving, and frustrates the Growth of its Traffick, which would naturally spring from the aptness of its Situation; for they are a pehurious People, and use a different Method of Trading from Others; and as they live at a cheaper Rate for

Provi-

Provisions, &c. it is no wonder that they become able to ruin the Market by underselling the most moderate Dealers.

Should the *Moors* violate the present Peace, and it be thought adviseable immediately to lay a Prohibition on the *Barbary* Commerce, it is hoped it will be done by turning the *Barbary Jews* out of *Gibraltar*; who generally are Agents for some of their Chiefs at *Mequinez*: And as they have reaped great Advantages from its Trade, and have some Influence on the Emperor, it is not unreasonable to believe they would use all their Interest to dispose Him to a Peace, and have the Trade open'd again, without which they must starve.

To me there appears no want of any other Argument to induce us to dismiss the *Jews* from *Gibraltar*, than the great Advantages which may accrue to the Nation by changing Hands, and thereby devolving the whole Trade upon our

own People ; Nay, one would think their Removal might very reasonably be enforced by a late Treaty of Peace with *Spain*, in the 10th Article of which the Expulsion of them is so precisely stipulated : And as it is not to be question'd, that a Superstitious, bigotted People, as the *Spaniards* are, are very sensibly touched by the Infringement of that Article ; so it is highly probable that the Severity and strict Hand they have kept over that Garrison, is in a great Measure owing to the disregard we shew them in that Particular.

When I speak of the *Jews* as frustrating the Growth of the Traffick in *Gibraltar*, I would be understood chiefly to point at those of *Europe* ; since 'tis they who most hurt us ; for as they come from *Italy*, *Holland*, and other Places, they draw thither large Quantities of Goods from those Countries for the Markets of *Spain* and *Barbary* ; whereas, were they removed from thence, the like, or larger Consignations would be sent from all Parts by *English* Subjects to

to their Correspondents there, who certainly have the best Right to any Benefit the Place can afford. But if through any *by Interest*, they should be able to defeat our Attempts to remove them, and maintain their Ground in spite of all Reason, and the Obligation we have to Treaties, they would have no reason to murmur if they were forced to purchase a Liberty of remaining there by a yearly Tax, as they did formerly in *England*, and do at this Day in most, if not all, the *Roman Catholick* Countries where they are permitted to inhabit. 'Tis not improbable that a little Severity in this Point, would in Time make them abandon the Place, and, by degrees, effect what cannot be compassed all at once.

As for the *Jews* and *Moors* from *Barbary*, who are permitted to trade in, and reside at *Gibraltar*, it appears no less necessary, for the Security of our Dealings, that they should not, in Time of Peace, be suffered to remain there continually, but only for
such

such a moderate Term of Time as may be judged sufficient to conclude and perfect their Business; for as the granting them an unlimited Liberty to reside there would ever make them negligent and dilatory in adjusting their Accounts; so, on the other Hand, if a fixed Time was set for their Departure, and all Hopes taken from them of leave to stay longer, it would make the Merchant continue in his Dealings with them, and soon lay them under a Necessity of bringing Money or Goods to purchase, or barter for what they wanted. At present indeed we are in Peace with this People; but should they ever break with us, I hope this Point will not be disregarded.

It must be granted, that the Trade with *Barbary* is not to be despised, since it already takes off a considerable Quantity of our Woollen Manufactures, and seems capable of a great Improvement. Which Consideration alone should render *Gibraltar* very valuable to us, since by our Possession of it, we secure to our selves that

that Trade, and their Trade to it does again make them more readily enter into Friendship with Us than any other Nation, since it does not appear that they could ever be induced to cultivate a Peace with any Other.

Having now consider'd the Value of Gibraltar, in respect to Barbary, let us view the Advantages which accrue to Great Britain by it, in respect to Spain and France. It is an uncontroverted Maxim, *That the want of Things most clearly shew the Worth of them.* This is verified in the Spaniards, who never truly knew the Value of Gibraltar till it came into our Hands. They now regard it as One would a fine Estate, that either a Father, or Grandfather, has lost out of the Family. What is it He would not do to bring it into the Family again, and thereby make amends to his Posterity, for what they might otherwise have cursed some of their Predecessors? So fares it with Spain in respect to Gibraltar; for notwithstanding it became Ours by right of War, and
solemn

solemn Treaty, yet have they ever since been using their utmost Endeavours to regain it; but, God be praised, all their Attempts have hitherto proved fruitless, and it is hoped will ever prove so, since to part with it is like putting a Sword into an Enemy's Hand; Nay, 'tis actually giving Spain a Power to disturb Us in our Commerce, which all must own to be the Strength of Great Britain.

The deep Concern the Spaniards have all along shewn at our Possession of Gibraltar, and all their Arts to regain it, ought certainly to be number'd among the Reasons for our never parting with it, and more especially when it is consider'd, that by holding of it we are enabled to command Respect not only from every Power which looks into the Mediterranean, but even from those far distant from it, who are in any wise concern'd in Trade that way. Had we in the late War constantly stationed a Squadron of Ships at Gibraltar, we should have made both Spain and France fully sensible of our Power by

by our Possession thereof. But alas! so blind were we then to our own Interest, that we neglected it. This our Enemies beheld with Pleasure; for the *Spaniards* expected We should have greatly interrupted their Trade to the *West Indies*, and other Parts; and the *French* were in equal Pain for theirs. Since then it is so well known that we have not made the Uses of *Gibraltar* as we ought, it is to be hoped we shall manage more wisely for the future, and not undervalue what we have so much neglected.

We have a late Instance further to prove the Value of *Gibraltar* in respect to *Spain*. 'Tis well known, that in the late Rupture with that Crown, our Merchants at *Cadiz*, *Malaga*, and other Parts, were obliged to leave that Kingdom in great haste: Had we not been possessed of *Gibraltar*, I would fain know whither they must have gone, and where they would have found an *Asylum*? *Gibraltar* was the only Place they had to retreat to; That was their Sanctuary, and there it was that they had an Oppor-

D

tunity

tunity to gather in their Effects, and recover such Debts as might otherwise have been lost. This ought also to be considered, (more especially since the same may happen again) and thrown into the Scale against the idle Clamours of Those who will have *Gibraltar* to be a Burthen to the Publick. Many of this Stamp, under a Profession of disinterested Zeal for our present happy Establishment, are too too often taken to be Friends to it; But, for my part, I cannot help treating them as *Romish* Emissaries, or Scouts from an Enemy's Camp, since otherwise they would not surely go about to make that so useless and insignificant, which every true *Protestant* and *English* Man regards AS A BULWARK OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Let any Rational and Disinterested Person tell me, whether *France* and *Spain* would have sacrificed so much Blood and Treasure, in their Attempts to recover *Gibraltar*, if they had thought it so inconsiderable as Those would have us believe, who make it their Business in all Companies to drop frivolous Reasons for
our

our giving it up? Did not those formidable Powers bury 12 or 13000 Men under its Walls, and afterwards find, that, if they continued their Attacks, it would be only to increase the Number of their Dead? Fully convinced, that all their Attempts that Way would prove fruitless, at last they drew off, and have ever since been playing their political Engines to obtain what those of War could not effect.

We are generally regarded as a good-natured People by Foreigners; and truly the *Spaniards* seem to think Us so, or otherwise surely they would not, with so much Gravity, go about to desire *Gibraltar* of Us, after we have laid out so much Money on it. Sixty thousand Pound *per Annum*, I believe, is under the Charge which the Government is at to maintain this important Place: If so, it has already cost us about a Million and a half; A vast Sum indeed! and greatly too much to compliment any neighbouring Prince with, even though He was never so much our Friend. Would not that Person be thought a Fool,

or a Madman, who being possessed of a fine Estate, and after laying out several Thousands on it, should give it to a Neighbour, who, as soon as He had got it, might prove his Enemy, and by that Gift be enabled utterly to ruin Him? By a Parity of Reason may we be charged with Folly and Madness, if we ever part with *Gibraltar*. *Spain* very nicely weighs the Importance of this Place to Us, and justly concludes from thence the Advantages it would be to them could they repossess it, particularly in the Revenue of Tobacco in that Kingdom, the Farmers of which, I am told, could never be brought to give any thing considerable for it in the Province of *Andalusia*, &c. as believing that by our Possession of *Gibraltar* we may clandestinely serve the neighbouring Parts with that Commodity.

Nothing gives me greater Pleasure than to compare the Condition of our Navy with those of the other Maritime Powers. Our Fleet, thro' the prudent Management, and extraordinary

ordinary Care of the Gentlemen at the head of Naval Affairs, is in its utmost Glory, whilst the Ships of our Neighbours are rotting in their Harbours, particularly those of *France*, that once seemed to vie with Us for the Mastery of the Sea; which they will hardly ever be able to do again if we keep *Gibraltar*, and use the same Vigilance and Care in our Fleet as at present: I say, *France* will scarce ever be able to cope with us again at Sea if we use this Caution; for it is well known, that when their Navy was in the best Condition, they could do nothing against Us in the *Mediterranean*, without joining the *Brest* to the *Toulon* Squadron. By being possessed of *Gibraltar*, and keeping a proper Force there in a War with *France*, we have it in our Power to prevent those Squadrons joining, and, of consequence, to become as much Masters of the *Mediterranean* as of the *English* Channel.

Since then the Advantages of *Gibraltar* are so many to Us, let us consider what it would be in the Hands of *France*, or *Spain*, when in Enmity
with

with Us. Can any one believe they would be wanting to make a proper Use of that which we most assuredly have unhappily neglected? No certainly, a small Force well applied would soon make Us sensible of its vast Consequence, should we ever be so blind to the Happiness of our Country as to part with it on any Conditions. In this Case, let any one figure out in his Mind how greatly our Trade to *Turkey*, *Italy*, and other Places must suffer; for I don't see how it could well be carried on without strong Convoys, which cannot always be spared from a Fleet, especially should *France* and *Spain* unite in a War against Us.

I come now to consider the Value of our *Mediterranean* Trade, the Security of which is chiefly owing to *Gibraltar*, from whence, Sir, you will further see what a Jewel it is in the Crown of *Great Britain*. If I am rightly informed, the Ships sent by our *Turkey* Company every Year up the *Levant*, may be worth about a Million of Money; I am pretty well assured

assured, when I was in *Turkey*, the Value of those Ships was not much wide of that Sum; the Return of which may be well argued to be much more considerable. Of such Importance is this Trade to the Kingdom, that it ought to have all imaginable Encouragement; for as it carries out the Manufactures of our Country, it brings home that which employs as many Thousands of our People as their Cargoes outwards did.

Besides this Trade to the *Levant*, it has been said, that several Years ago the Customs of the Trade to *Venice*, *Leghorn* and *Genoa* amounted to about 300,000 *per Annum*: And as our Exports have been more considerable since, and are at this time as high as they ever were, 'tis not unlikely that this Trade may be of much greater Concern than I mention. Without naming our Trade to other Places in the *Mediterranean*, it must be allowed that all this Treasure is worth securing, which is effectually done by our holding *Gibraltar*. Let none there-

therefore hereafter talk of its being a Burthen to the Publick, since the Expence the Crown is at for it, is vastly over-ballanced by the many Advantages derived from it. For my part, I believe it not impossible to bring this important Place under such a Regulation, that the Government in Time shall not be put to any Charge to keep it: What occurs to me on this Occasion towards easing the Publick, I shall consider in its proper Place.

Nothing is more certain than that the Welfare and Prosperity of *Gibraltar* depends on protecting a Trade in it; and therefore, as soon as it came into our Hands, the Government considered, that the encouraging Merchants to reside there would be a means to render it most beneficial to the Nation: Accordingly every Thing was done which was thought proper at that time of Day, to invite our own Traders to settle there, and thereby encourage the Exportation of our own Manufactures. Notwithstanding this, *Gibraltar*

Gibraltar is not without other Discouragements to Trade, besides what I have before mentioned in relation to the Indulgence shewn to the *European Jews* there, &c. These may be ranked under three Heads, *viz.*

1. The Badness of the Coin current there, which the *Jews* have counterfeited, and consequently increased.

2. The Consuls of other Nations settled there, who make Demands on Goods consigned to his Majesty's Subjects as well as to Foreigners. And,

3. The want of a well constituted Civil Power.

The two former have been sufficiently handled in a Pamphlet published about six Years ago, by a Gentleman who stiled himself a *Turkey Merchant*, who treating of the Importance of *Gibraltar*, in a Letter to the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, chose to write under that

E

Cha;

Character, the *Turkey Trade* being the most considerable of any which we carry up the *Mediterranean*, and, of consequence, our keeping *Gibraltar* of greater Moment to the *Levant* Traders than to others.

As to the third Discouragement, that Author shews the Advantages which would accrue to the Garrison by establishing a Civil Power there ; but as He does not at all touch on the Office of such a Magistrate, and seems to be at a Loss on what Foundation to build, I hope I shall not be construed to dictate to my Superiors, when I offer to you, Sir, my Opinion in this Case, which is,

That some creditable Person, well experienced in our Trade that way, may have a Commission from His Majesty, under such a Title or Denomination as may be thought most suitable to his Office, with Power, when the Weightiness of a Cause might require it, to call to his Assistance two other able Persons, by whose Authority should be judged and decided all Disputes depending
between

between Merchants, and such other Controversies as relate to Civil Matters. The better to strengthen his Authority, He should have Power to administer an Oath, to seize and distrain Goods, and to imprison in Cases of Contumacy, or ill Behaviour; and the Commander in chief of the Forces should be ordered to aid and assist this Officer on all lawful Occasions, and not to interfere in any Case whatsoever, except where the Military Matters make it necessary, and then only join Himself, or any other sufficient Land Officer, to be assistant in the Decision of the Controversy.

It may likewise be a part of this Officer's Charge to make useful Observations, particularly such as tend to the Improvement of Trade, and which way the Publick Charge, in maintaining the Garrison, may be the soonest, and best lessend; which He should transmit home, from time to time, to the Secretary of State, and Board of Trade. To which End He should frame a Book,

or Register, wherein should be set down, in the most compendious manner, every Person's Name in the Garrison, his Nation, and Employment, and how long He has been an Inhabitant? From whence will naturally arise these following Lights.

1. The true Strength of the Garrison will thereby be thoroughly known.

2. Some Judgment may be formed of the proper Use of such Inhabitants as are Foreigners in case of any Emergency.

3. It will be an infallible Way to come at the Rents and individual Sums paid as Fines for Houses, Warehouses, Shops, &c.

4. It will furnish substantial Materials for any Project that may be fallen on for improving the Perquisites, which certainly would go far towards defraying the Expence which the Government is annually at for the Garrison.

I am

I am not insensible, when I talk of applying the Perquisites of the Government of *Gibraltar* to the Benefit of the Publick, that Some will exclaim against me who are interested therein : For my part I am unwilling to give Offence to any, but, in this Case, my Subject will not allow me to please every One. As I am only advancing what may be for the Publick Good, I think none ought to be offended ; nor do I believe any will but such who postpone the Welfare of the Community to their own private Views. That the Perquisites I am speaking of are considerable is agreed by all impartial Men ; and notwithstanding some may have endeavoured to depreciate and represent them as insignificant, yet, on the other Hand, they have been swelled to a great Bulk by Others : But These being such as think every Thing lost that goes beside themselves, I give as little Credit to them as to their Opposers.

Perquisites are tempting Things,
and turn many from the Paths of Vir-
tue

tue with as much Ease as they have diverted me from the Civil Power which I was treating of; 'Tis time therefore, to resume my Subject.

The Register, or General Muster-Roll, proposed to be framed by this Magistrate, should not be taken from any Pattern, or copied from old Books and Papers, since to build on a corrupt Foundation might be destructive of the Design.

I allow, that the Method here proposed for this Enquiry may at first View appear something harsh; but when the true Design shall be considered, *viz. That it is to set Matters on a new footing, to correct what is defective, and to give the Government a new, and more wholesome Constitution*, surely it will not appear strange. By this means hidden Treasure may probably be brought to Light, and such Inhabitants as labour under any Grievances may be redress'd; for when the Fear of their being continued is in some measure removed

removed, People will be tempted, either for the sake of Justice or Revenge, to lay them open, and discover the naked Truth, which is not to be expected as long as the Apprehension of being left to the Mercy of such as they have displeased hangs threatening over their Heads.

Let not any One believe, that I am here charging any particular Person with Injustice, and Oppression; far is that from me; for I am only arguing what Advantages will accrue to *Great Britain* in general, and *Gibraltar* in particular, by erecting a Civil Power there; and surely I may then suppose there may be some Grievances to be redress'd, since I believe every One will agree with me, That we hardly have a Government abroad where the Subjects of it have not Foundation for Complaint of one kind or another. *Humanum est errare* will certainly justify me here; and where is the Man that expects Perfection to spring from Imperfection?

Many

Many are the Uses which might be made of such an Authority as I have been here speaking of, if placed in an honest and well chosen Person: And as it appears to be the only Expedient to give new Life and Vigour to the languishing Commerce of *Gibraltar*, I hope it will be regarded, and in Time to see as considerable a Factory of my own Country-Men there as in any Port abroad. Trade, it must be allowed, cannot flourish under a Military Power; for it is of such a Nature, that it can no more thrive without the cherishing Warmth of a Civil Government than a tender Plant, which requires the Influence of an indulgent Sun, can live in *Greenland*.

The Merchant who does Business at *Gibraltar*, assuredly suffers by the want of a regular Court of Justice there; for being sometimes under a Necessity of trusting Shop-keepers, &c. they don't all pay so strict a regard to Honour and Credit, as they

they would do was there a Power to frighten them into their Duty. As for the Commanding Officers there, they care not (and certainly they are in the right) to interfere and determine in Disputes between Merchants, since it is not only out of their Province, but their Decision might be censured on a Complaint at home.

Foreigners would certainly trade more to *Gibraltar*, was there a Civil Power lodged there that they might apply to in case of any Difference between them and the Inhabitants. After this, Sir, if *Gibraltar* has any considerable Friends, we need not doubt soon to see its Trade encouraged and protected beyond what it has hitherto been, and other Matters regulated there by such a Magistrate as I have been treating of.

I again repeat it, that I am one of Those who think some Expedient may be fallen on to help the Government in the Expence it is at for maintaining *Gibraltar*; Nay, that in Time it may become so considerable as not to want the least Assistance for its

F

Sup-

Support. Every Thing cannot be done at once, We must proceed gradually, and first fix a Civil Magistracy there, from whose frequent Notices to the Secretary of State, and Board of Trade, such Lights may arise as will be sufficient to induce the Parliament to consider this Affair. The *Turkey Merchant*, whom I have before mentioned, has pointed at some Things, which seem to deserve more Attention than they met with. His Proposals are to this Purpose, *viz.*

1. That the House Rents, and Fines upon Entry, which at present fall into private Purfes, may be applied towards lessening the Expence the Crown is at in maintaining *Gibraltar*.

2. That it will be no Hardship, if all Ships which go into *Gibraltar* Bay, were obliged to contribute towards the Crown's Expence also, by paying something for Anchorage, as is Customary in other Ports.

3. That

3. That an Acknowledgment may be demanded for all Goods landed at *Gibraltar*, as hath been done in *Leghorn*, and other Free Ports.

4. That the King might, by Act of Parliament, be empowered to grant Leases of Houses and Lands at *Gibraltar* for a certain Term of Years.

5. That, the better to increase the Revenue of the Garrison, several Houses given away by the Prince of *Hesse* to the *Spaniards*, during his Government (and which are larger than is necessary for bare Habitation) may be reclaimed.

6. That a moderate Tax may be laid on all sort of Cattle consumed in the Place; and also upon Wine, and other Liquors imported for the Use of the Garrison.

There will certainly be but few who read these Proposals that will not immediately enter into the Rea-

sonableness of them. As to the first, (to which may be added the Rents of several Gardens in and about the Town, which are too considerable to be omitted) I am well assured, no small Sum would arise from this Article, although it should be pleaded, that the Propriety of many Houses in the upper part of the Town has been given away to such *Spaniards* as were Sufferers, and most exposed to the Fury of the Siege: Nay, let them further plead, that some *English* Merchants have all along enjoyed their Houses Rent-free, yet wou'd it appear that no small Sum would arise from the Rents of Houses, Fines on Entry, &c. When I say this, I would not have it thought that I am let into the Mysteries of the Government of *Gibraltar*, I confess I am not; however, I know enough, as to the Point I am speaking to; for I have seen an annual Computation of the known Perquisites, which was founded on the most strict Enquiries it was possible to make without publick Authority: And since those are so considerable, it is not unreasonable

able to believe, that there are others, which are unknown, momentous enough to be regarded, though not to be discovered without much Difficulty, except by such an Officer as I have been speaking of.

As the 2^d Proposal of Ships paying something for Anchorage in *Gibraltar Bay*, it carries nothing of Hardship in it. Let us remove those Gentlemen who stile themselves Consuls, as the *Turkey Merchant* proposes, and let the Duty exacted by them be applied to the Use of the Crown. I am, I must confess, at a Loss to guess how they came first to be admitted there, since, as I apprehend, no solid Reason can be given, why *France*, *Genoa*, or *Holland*, should keep such an Officer there. So far are they from having any Factory, that when I was in the Place, I did not so much as know one eminent Merchant in the Garrison belonging to any of those Nations; which leads Many to believe they are continued there for Purposes quite different from Trade. In a Place of such Importance as *Gibraltar*, we ought

ought to keep a vigilant Eye on every One, and even suspect those most who would appear to give no Cause for Suspicion. Since I was on the Spot, I am told a *Spanish* Consul is fixed there, but to what purpose I will not pretend to say, though Some consider Him as little better than a Spy on our Coast Trade, and believe He is planted there to make Remarks on Us more than for any other Purpose. Whether it be so, or not, it is not my Business to enquire ; 'Tis certain, that Consuls there are useless, and may be dangerous in such a Government as *Gibraltar* ; surely then all who love their Country will give their Voice for their Removal, where there does not appear to want a Precedent for our so doing. But should they continue in their Post, it is hoped a watchful Eye will be kept over them.

The 3^d Proposition, of demanding an Acknowledgment for all Goods landed at *Gibraltar*, can be no more objected against than the other two ; for if the same be done in *Leghorn* and

and other Free-Ports, I see no Reason why we should not do the like at *Gibraltar*; since it is but reasonable Foreigners should pay in our Ports what We do not dispute paying in theirs.

As to the 4th, That his Majesty should be empower'd by Act of Parliament to grant Leases of the Houses and Lands at *Gibraltar* for a certain Term of Years, it will be so far from being prejudicial to the Place, that it will much encourage Families to go and settle there, which would not only soon restore the Town to its primitive Beauty, but make it populous, and thereby add to its Trade and Security. It wears at present a dismal Aspect, and still shews the Face of War: Those who have Houses only repair them for the Time they may continue in them; so that if Care be not taken, they will soon fall into a Heap of Rubbish, and lie like those which were batter'd down at our taking the Place, which none have yet thought proper to reer from the *Chaos* they are in; which, no doubt, would have

have been done, had a Civil Power been established there so early as it were to be wish'd.

The 5th Proposition is supported with equal Reason to the rest; for it is not to be supposed, that when the Prince of *Hesse* gave several Houses to the *Spaniards*, He gave them to them and their Heirs for ever: 'Twas sufficient to those to whom they were given if they enjoyed them for their Lives. As therefore it is now so long since the Prince of *Hesse* was so liberal in his Favours, and many of Those on whom they were bestowed may be dead, surely it is not unreasonable they should now revert to the Government; since I don't find that they were given to them for any other Reason but because they lost their own in the Fury of the Siege. History furnishes Us with many Instances where the Besieged have been cut to Pieces instead of having Houses given them, as in this Case: For my part, I much question whether the *Spaniards* would have treated us with so much Indulgence, had it been in their Power.

Do

Do not think, Sir, that I am here pleading against the kind Usage the *Spaniards* then met with : No, I am far from that ; for it is a Pleasure to me to find my Country-Men of so generous a Disposition, that after they have vanquished an Enemy, they treat Them in the most friendly manner. Nor would I have you believe that I am averse to the rewarding of Merit ; however it does not appear to me that the *Spaniards* at that time of Day deserved more of the Crown of *England* than the Subjects of it ; and why they should therefore be tempted to remain in *Gibraltar* by such Gifts I can't conceive ; for they will still be *Spaniards* do all We can, and, were it in their Power, would stick at nothing to turn Us out to make room for their own Country-Men. God forbid they should not be rewarded, if they can plead any Services done for Us ; But I never yet heard but of One *Spaniard* who signalized Himself on our Side, and that was Mr. *Joseph Corrons*, whose Actions have justly merited a handsome Reward ; for I

G

have

have seen ample Certificates of them from the Prince of *Hesse*, Governor *Shrimpton*, and Governor *Elliot*, notwithstanding which the poor Man was in a manner starving when I was at *Gibraltar*. So far has Merit been from meeting Encouragement there: But I find all Places alike on this Account; for if a Man has nothing else to plead but Merit, He is in a fair Way to starve.

As to the 6th and last Proposal of laying a moderate Tax upon Cattle, &c. consumed in *Gibraltar*, it would carry no Grievance with it; for, if Fame may be credited, such Things have been done in some Governments abroad, where the Publick has been so far from reaping any Advantage thereby, that those Profits have also fallen into private Purses. Whether this Report be true or no, is not my Purpose at present to enquire: All I have to argue is, That the Inhabitants of *Gibraltar* would feel no great Burthen in such a Tax, even though it should be *Four Dollars for every Ox, and One*

*One Dollar for every Sheep, or Hog
consumed in the Garrison.*

I have already spoke of the *European Jews*, as a Mischief to our own Traders in *Gibraltar*; and the Reasonableness of laying a yearly Tax upon them, in order to make them quit the Place. This would not be so inconsiderable but that it would pretty much increase the other Sums proposed to lessen the Publick Charge.

Though I have often heard the Importance of *Gibraltar* disputed against in private, I never yet could see any of the Cobweb Arguments on that Side of the Question in print. Those who advance them seem to know their own Weakness, and to be ashamed of publishing what they cannot but perceive would be easily refuted, more especially since if they know any thing of this Garrison, they must allow that it appears impossible it should be taken from

Us whilst our Fleet remains in the good Condition it is in at present. 'Tis plain, that a small Number of Troops defended it several Months against the united Force of *France* and *Spain* : And as many Improvements have been made there since, surely it may be done now. But say it could not ; Whilst We overpower our Neighbours at Sea (which to all Appearance We shall ever do) We can at any time throw into it the requisite Aid, in case of a Siege.

After all this, who is there that is not for the Preservation of *Gibraltar* ? Surely none but Those who would have their Country fight and conquer, and spend its Blood and Treasure to gain Towns to court our conquered Enemies with, and thereby enable them to give Us such a Blow as perhaps might put it out of our Power for ever to make them such another Compliment,

pliment, if We had a Disposition to it.

Let us not forget our brave Country-Men who fell at the taking of *Gibraltar*, but rather hold it as a lasting Monument to their Memory: Nor let us be so forgetful to our selves as to think that *Spain* will not try every Art to regain what will infallibly make her too considerable for Us. The *Spaniards* are a People close in their Designs, and infinite in their Ambition; We ought therefore to be on our Guard against them, and ever remember, *That England is never secure but when armed and powerful.* Take *Gibraltar* from Us, and our Power must of course lessen; therefore whoever votes it to *Spain* can be no Friend to his Country. If We ever lose it, (which seems impossible by fair Play) or part with it on any Account, I shall date our Ruin from that Day, for Credit will most certainly fall upon it, and
We,

We, who are now courted by all the neighbouring Powers, shall cease to have that Respect paid Us, which, in the Condition We at present are, We are qualified to command from them.

I have now, Sir, touched on the various Uses of *Gibraltar* to Us, in respect to *Barbary, Spain, France, Trade, &c.* I have also pointed out the Advantages which may arise from the fixing a Civil Power there, and remark'd on such Proposals as appear to me to have a Tendency towards lessening the Publick Charge. But why do I recapitulate? You see what I have done, and though you may like it, I am not so vain as to believe that there will not be Others, who may think I have treated the Subject unskilfully: Be this as it will, I have done it without Biass of Mind, and shall have Satisfaction enough to find any Hints may be gathered from hence for the Service of my Country.

Let

Let not any One suppose I harbour the least Thought, that there is any such Thing now design'd as the giving up *Gibraltar*. This is what I cannot think on, without I was at the same time to believe the Ministry wilfully blind to every thing which has a Tendency to promote the Welfare of their Country. The happy Condition We are in at present is, no doubt, owing to the prudent Conduct and skilful Management of Those at the Helm; and sufficiently shews, that they will continue to do all in their Power to keep up the Regard which is at present paid to *Great Britain* by all the States around Us. So far am I then from believing any One would make the least Motion to part with this Jewel, (which I was about to call the brightest in the *British* Diadem) that I persuade my self *All will hold up their Hands for annexing it to the Crown; and the*

the rather, since the People in general have such a Sense of its Importance, that there was not an honest *English Man* but shewed his Opinion of it by the Fears he express'd about it, when parting with it was the Topick of all Companies.

The following Letter from *Madrid*, gives me singular Pleasure : It appears thereby, that the *Spaniards* are not so sanguine in their Expectations of *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon* as they have heretofore been. The Letter runs thus, viz.

Madrid, October 9. “ The Triple Alliance concluded at *Han-*
 “ over between the Kings of
 “ *France, Great-Britain, and Prus-*
 “ *sia*, makes a great Noise at
 “ our Court, and has, in some
 “ Measure, baulked certain Pro-
 “ jects which were upon the
 “ Anvil. A Copy of this Treaty
 “ was read and examined some
 “ Days ago in a Privy Coun-
 “ cil,

" cil, which the King called for
 " that very purpose at *St. Ilde-*
 " *fonso* : The Results of that
 " Council are not yet perfectly
 " known, but they were sent this
 " Morning by an Express to our
 " Ambassador at *Vienna*. Mean
 " while the Restitution of *Gì-*
 " *braltar* and *Port Mahon* seems
 " now more remote than ever,
 " since the three abovesaid Pow-
 " ers are entered into a mutual
 " Guaranty of the Point *uti pos-*
 " *sidentis* : Besides that, the Im-
 " perial Court scruples to med-
 " dle any more with this Affair,
 " and to interpose its good Offices
 " herein with the King of *Great*
 " *Britain*.

The Point *uti possidentis*, mentioned
 in this Letter, is sufficiently ex-
 plained by the second Article
 in the Triple Alliance above
 mentioned, an Abstract of which
 Treaty has been lately pub-
 lished. The Article runs thus ;
viz.

H

" The

“ The contracting Princes pro-
 “ mise and engage their mutual
 “ Guaranty, for all the respec-
 “ tive Dominions and Countries,
 “ as well in Europe as the other
 “ Parts of the World, not only
 “ to preserve the Advantages,
 “ Privileges, and the Trade they
 “ are at this Time possessed of,
 “ but also Those which they may
 “ enjoy hereafter, binding them-
 “ selves to use their good Offices
 “ to see Justice done, in case of
 “ need, to the injured Party.

Here we see enough to lessen
 the Hopes of the *Spaniards*, as
 to the View they might have of
 getting *Gibraltar* from Us ; for
 here the Kings of *France* and
Prussia are Guaranties for it, to
 preserve its Advantages, Privi-
 leges, and Trade to Us. By this
 we may be fully convinced of
 the Patriotism of Those at the
 Helm, in the Care they have ta-
 ken to preserve this important
 Acquisition. Since then the Hopes
 of

(59)

of *Spain* are in so drooping a Posture, I cannot but please myself with the Thought of seeing them soon intirely destroyed, by annexing Gibraltar to the Crown of GREAT BRITAIN.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

PHILALETHES.



(52)

of Spain are in to dropping a
Police I cannot but please my
tion with the thought of a day
then soon fairly delivered
Gibraltar to the Crown of
OF THE TREATY

1 and 2

For more London 2000

4 OCT 68

